

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**September 2013 – Week 4**

**Air Date: September 22 – September 28 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: TELEVISION COME TO TEXAS**

SEPTEMBER 1948 AND TELEVISION COMES TO TEXAS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1948. FORT WORTH. AFTER AN INITIAL BROADCAST OF A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN, WBAP IS OFFICIALLY ON THE AIR.

THE FIRST TELEVISION STATION IN TEXAS, WBAP IS OWNED BY WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN AMON G. CARTER, WHO STARTED THE FIRST RADIO STATION IN THE CITY IN 1922.

YET THE FIRST NIGHT OF PROGRAMMING DOESN'T GO WELL. A POWER OUTAGE INTERRUPTS THE SIGNAL FOR 17 MINUTES, AND THE OWNER ALMOST FALLS TO HIS DEATH THROUGH A HOLE IN THE STUDIO FLOOR. CARTER AND THE STATION BOTH SURVIVE.

WBAP CHANGED NAMES AND OWNERS, BUT IT WAS THE FIRST OF OVER 100 TV STATIONS IN TEXAS.

TELEVISION CAME TO TEXAS 65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

---

"TELEVISION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ect03>), accessed September 12, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Ben H. Procter, "CARTER, AMON G., SR.," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fca69>), accessed September 12, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

1-800-998-4GLO | [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org) | [www.thisweekintexashistory.org](http://www.thisweekintexashistory.org)

Texas General Land Office | Communications Division | 512-475-1685